



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN OF TEWKSBURY

TOWN HALL

1009 MAIN ST

TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 01876

TODD R. JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN
SCOTT WILSON, VICE CHAIRMAN
BRUCE PANILAITIS, PH.D., CLERK
DAVID H. GAY
JAMES D. WENTWORTH

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MEETING MINUTES JULY 23, 2014

Chairperson Todd Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Present for the Board of Selectmen meeting were Scott Wilson, Vice Chair, Bruce Panilaitis, Clerk and Board Member James Wentworth. Scott Wilson, Vice Chair, and David Gay were not present. Richard Montuori, Town Manager was also present.

Scheduled Items

2014 Annual Appointments

Economic Development Process Review Committee (one-year term)

Joseph C. Giaimo applied for re-appointment to this committee having served for the past year on the committee.

MOTION: Mr. Panilaitis made the motion to reappoint Joseph C. Giaimo to the Economic Development Process Review Committee for a one-year term as of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015; Mr. Wentworth seconded and the motion carried 3 to 0.

Mr. Wilson arrived at 4:10 pm

Market Basket Work Stoppage

Mr. Johnson asked for comments from the members related to the ongoing work stoppage and labor dispute at Market Basket, headquartered in Tewksbury.

Mr. Panilaitis expressed that while his personal feelings are with the associates in this dispute, as a member of the Board, he feels the Board has no official role in this dispute. As a Board we need to be concerned about this due to the significant role Market Basket plays in our community with regards to employment, tax base, as well as their corporate citizenship. Mr. Panilaitis expressed concern that the rallies and ongoing demonstrations would put a strain on our public safety departments, particularly the police; however Chief Sheehan has been managing them with great professionalism.

Mr. Johnson interjected that all details, including those at the rallies were being paid for by Market Basket so there was no direct financial burden to the Town.

Mr. Panilaitis called for the two sides to find a way to sit down and resolve the issues driving the work stoppage, and that we should provide whatever support that was possible to make that happen.

Mr. Wentworth expressed that as representatives of the Town, which includes residents who work for Market Basket, residents that shop there, and the businesses in Town. Based on that, Mr. Wentworth maintained that the Board should not take a position one way or another.

Mr. Wilson supported the consensus of the Board, stating that the Board should not take a formal position on the dispute.

Mr. Johnson expressed concerns for the long term commitment of Market basket to Tewksbury, and would like to meet with company management to better understand their long term plans, outside the current dispute. Mr. Johnson added that taking a side in this dispute could set a precedent for the Town to get involved in companies' internal affairs.

Mr. Johnson asked for any motions related to the issue, but none were offered.

Adjournment

**MOTION: Mr. Wilson made the motion for the Board to adjourn at 4:30 p.m.;
Mr. Wentworth seconded, and the motion carried 4 to 0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by Board of Selectmen on September 9, 2014